

## House Republican Press Release

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Press Office: 860-240-8700

### Stone, Tymniak Oppose Excessive 13% Budget Increase



State Reps. John “Jack” Stone, R-133<sup>rd</sup>, and Cathy C. Tymniak, R-134<sup>th</sup>, opposed a proposed 13 percent hike in the two-year state budget. They said it is excessive, raises taxes by \$1.1 billion and exceeds the state constitutional spending cap by \$434 million.

The two Fairfield representatives who serve on the legislature’s budget writing Appropriations Committee voted against a Democrat-proposed budget that would spend \$31.8-billion, or \$647 million more than Governor M. Jodi Rell’s biennial budget.

Tymniak and Stone noted that the Tax Foundation in Washington calculates that Connecticut residents already pay the largest combined federal, state and local taxes per capita in America. The Tax Foundation estimates that Connecticut taxpayers work until May 3 to pay their taxes, the longest of any state, before they can have funds to pay living expenses for themselves and their families.

If these tax increase are approved, Stone and Tymniak noted the legislative majority Democrats will have increased taxes since 2002 by more than \$2 billion.

Rep. Tymniak said, “Connecticut is still digging itself out of a hole after three tough years when state revenues were down. This is not the time to throw caution to the wind and start spending excessively. We ought to exercise restraint and rebuild our Rainy Day Fund for the future, and we need to encourage business growth not discourage it.”

“This is the largest spending increase in decades,” said Rep. Stone. “Connecticut families are among the most heavily taxed of any state. The state economy is lagging the rest of the nation, and consumer confidence right now is down. This is the time to slow the growth in spending, not increase it to record levels. Increasing taxes in this budget by more than \$1 billion is beyond comprehension.”

The Appropriations Committee approved the increased spending plan Monday (April 18) along party lines by a 34-16 vote. Governor Rell stated she opposes the proposal and will not sign an emergency declaration that is required for the budget to exceed the spending cap.

The governor and state lawmakers must reach an agreement on a new two-year budget before the session adjourns on June 8.